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Brief Prepared by the Lethbridge Chamber
Of Commerce Provincial Affairs Co 2



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LETHBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BRIEF PREPARED BY THE LETHBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CABINET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1973.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS.

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce has appreciated the opportunity to assist in arranging the 1973 Cabinet tour of southern Alberta. In particular it will be a pleasure to act as co-host with the City of Lethbridge for the Cabinet-Public luncheon to be held today.

This Chamber wishes to commend the Government for comprehensive policies giving special attention to matters of major significance such as the problems of the agriculture industry, the desirability of the new Export Agency, development of small communities, protection of the environment (ECA hearings) and relations with municipal or provincial governments in the context of a definite federal policy for Alberta. Recent action by the Alberta Housing Corporation in approving financial policies relevant to senior citizens housing projects is very encouraging.

More specifically we wish to acknowledge in a positive manner Government decisions concerning the bridge to west Lethbridge and the new Government Administrative Complex, for which the sod was turned this morning.

This Chamber has enjoyed excellent relations with the Provincial Government for many years and in the context of our intention to continue to contribute positively within the framework of this relationship, and recognizing the fact that the Alberta government retains a sincere interest in this region, we request your attention to the following items:

1. Laborde-Simat Air Survey.

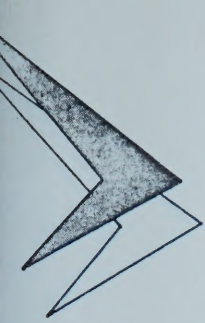
This survey contains recommendations which require immediate action as part of the on-going total implementation of the report.

Commissioned jointly by the City of Lethbridge and the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Provincial Government we believe the follow-up and enactment processes of the Report are of singular importance.

2. Rail Line Abandonment.

As a member of the Alberta Chamber the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce supports the recent establishment of an Alberta Chamber Committee to study rail line abandonment proposals which will have

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considerable effect on the entire province and in particular this area.

The rail line abandonment policies in question were made at a time when problems of agricultural surpluses were held in a context different from their present status. It is possible certain policies in this regard require reconsideration.

The study, comments and recommendations of this Committee will be presented to the Alberta Chamber of Commerce meetings in May of 1974 in order that a positive statement may be made prior to actual implementation of the proposed rail abandonment schedule, January 1, 1975.

3. 1975 Canada Winter Games.

The Lethbridge Chamber has established formal relations with the 1975 Canada Winter Games Society as one of the many cooperative arrangements that will be necessary to a successful Games, to be hosted by Lethbridge and Southern Alberta February 11-27 1975.

In the next eighteen months the Games Society and administration will be involved in detailed preparations and there will be many occasions when the cooperation of the provincial government will be essential.

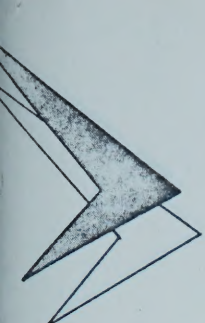
The Winter Games Society and Board of Directors represent the interests of many thousands of individuals and we urge careful consideration of their requests.

4. Alberta Opportunities Company-Regional Office.

The purpose of the Alberta Opportunities Company is to assist smaller communities, either in the expansion of existing industries or in the development of new industries. Southern Alberta is comprised almost entirely of small towns and it would appear obvious Lethbridge is the logical location for a regional office of the A.O.C.

We have met with the Board of Directors of the A.O.C. (June 28) and have subsequently indicated our interest in the establishment of such an office.

It will be our intention to keep this matter before the Government in the interests of development in this region.



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5. AG-WEEK.

The Lethbridge Chamber fully supports the Department of Agriculture concept of Ag-Week, intended to make the non-agricultural public more aware of all facets of Agriculture in Alberta.

This Chamber is working closely with local Department of Agriculture personnel in planning Ag-Week activities. In addition we continue to plan for Ag-Expo to be held in late February 1974, further exemplifying our major interest in agriculture.

6. Senior Citizens.

In view of inflationary trends and subsequent effects on limited/fixed income senior citizens the Lethbridge Chamber encourages the Government to consider wider ranging policies directed at continual improvement in all matters affecting the senior citizens of this province.

We appreciate the concern shown to date by the Government and certainly the recently-approved Alberta Housing Corporation legislation outlining financial procedures for the establishment of senior citizen residential complexes is a positive step.

7. Western Economic Opportunities Conference.

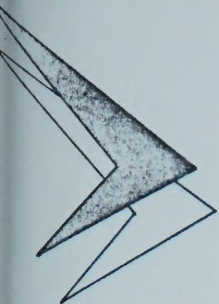
The Government is to be commended for its role as host and major participant in the Western Economic Opportunities Conference.

Having contributed a brief to the Conference this Chamber is gratified by the manner in which its general interests were represented and by the apparent positive stature of the Province of Alberta at the Conference.

8. Freight Rates.

Pursuant to point 8 above, we are encouraged by the Government of Alberta position in the matter of freight rates.

We fully recognize the need for continuous research, negotiation and interpretation in this matter and will attempt to assist in any manner possible.



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9. Post Secondary Institutions.

The Chamber of Commerce was actively involved in preliminary research and negotiations concerned with the establishment of both the University of Lethbridge (1967) and the then Lethbridge Junior College (1957). This interest was based on recognition of the need for such institutions and we feel the Government has consistently identified the major problems facing the respective boards of governors and administrations.

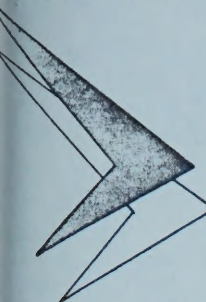
To this end and referring specifically to the University of Lethbridge, we emphasize the importance of careful attention to all University submissions regarding new programs, which we feel are presented as the result of exhaustive research on the part of the University and in the interests of improving the effectiveness of the institution. (i.e. the Native American Studies Program, the Bachelor of Management Arts degree.)

Similarly the Lethbridge Chamber continues to be involved in the operations of the Community College assisting when possible and fully recognizing the desirability of the existence of both a Community College and a University in this city.

10. A major concern of this and other Chambers of Commerce in Southern Alberta has been the program of up-grading for Highway #3. Submissions in this matter date back to many years and Highway #3 has consistently been included in the Alberta Chamber of Commerce Policy Statement.

We note that only 106 miles of the 196 mile length of this highway between Medicine Hat and the Crowsnest Pass have been upgraded to superior standard. The idea of "13 or 14 mile" improvement programs is not entirely encouraging, particularly in terms of projected completion.

Many portions of Highway #3 do not afford the safety, accessibility, or driving convenience to which users and prospective users are entitled. We suggest the considerable importance of this upgrading program and request immediate action.



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CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce believes in the importance of direct communication with the Government of Alberta and we present this brief in the overall context of improving Governmental communications with this region. We feel the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce has provided and can continue to provide a major assistance in the matter of these communications.

It is apparent most contact from this region is made directly with Edmonton and not with the Calgary "Premier's Office". To this end, the Government may wish to consider an expanded/modified version of the "Southern Alberta Premier's Office" for this community.

As a Chamber we are firmly committed to the policies, ideals and concepts included in this presentation and we wish to take advantage of every opportunity to interact with the Government in a reciprocally positive manner. Through our Committee/Task Force/Board of Directors/Executive structure we will attempt to provide meaningful, important input either when called upon by the Government or when reacting to other matters of concern.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation today.

Yours truly,

O.C. STUBBS, President

R. BARTON, Chairman Provincial Affairs Committee

T.R. LITTLE, Executive member-at-large

M.G.R. SUTHERLAND, Manager

